

Filed for intro on 05/08/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 819

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to commend Mrs. Betty Richards for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the president of the Stone's River Woman's Club.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those exemplary citizens who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, these sterling individuals have pieced together the enduring fabric that comprises the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Betty Richards is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Warren County and a longtime resident of Middle Tennessee, Mrs. Richards is the quintessential "pillar of the community"; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, Betty Richards began her illustrious teaching career before she was 20 years of age; and

WHEREAS, to help better develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children, Mrs. Richards returned to school and obtained her master's degree from David Lipscomb College (now Lipscomb University); and

WHEREAS, she resumed her teaching career at David Lipscomb Elementary School in 1975 after a 12-year hiatus from teaching to raise her two children; she then taught until 1995; and

WHEREAS, Betty Richards has shared her vast experience and teaching expertise with future teachers in the Teacher Education Program at Lipscomb University and is currently teaching math enrichment classes two days a week; and

WHEREAS, as an active member of the Stone's River Woman's Club, Mrs. Richards has selflessly donated her time by participating in countless activities, including spearheading a Ways and Means Recycling Sale and the 2nd Saturday Book Sale; coordinating "Christmas in July" for VA patients with two other organizations; attending all of the regular club meetings and helping to set the agenda for all regular and board meetings; recruiting new members; attending and participating in numerous district and state meetings; working on projects to clean up the community; contributing to fundraisers; donating items and working for various causes; presenting awards at various schools; and much much more; and

WHEREAS, from January until June of 1999, Mrs. Richards rendered astute service as the club's education chairman before her election as the president of the Stone's River Woman's Club in June of 1999; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as President of the Stone's River Woman's Club, Betty Richards has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Richards' outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Richards also generously donates her many talents to a number of other noteworthy causes; she serves with distinction as the community volunteer chairman for her DAR chapter, as a judge at various local competitions, and as a member of the local Delta Parliamentary Chapter and the Development Board at Lipscomb University, in addition to preparing the weekly Ombudsman reports for a local nursing home; and

WHEREAS, Betty Richards is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Richards is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, Stanley Richards, and their two children, Dr. William Richards of Memphis and Betty Lynn Thompson of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, during her limited spare time, Betty Richards enjoys traveling, both domestically and abroad, with her husband, reading mysteries and historical fiction, attending her grandchildren's soccer and baseball games, working with her husband on their genealogy research, and entertaining her Gourmet Group, which has retained the same membership for 25 years, twice per year; and

WHEREAS, loving the Lord and endeavoring to lead an exemplary Christian life, Mrs. Richards is an active and devout member of the Donelson Church of Christ, where she is a substitute Ladies Sunday School class teacher; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Betty Richards's stature walks among us; her brilliance shines down on us as she works assiduously to improve the quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Betty Richards is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Mrs. Betty Richards for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as President of the Stone's River Woman's Club and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.